



**DOE DIALOGUE | Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz**  
March 10, 2014

**\*Updates and Standards Review...**

Please share the message below with your staff and patrons...

The Indiana Department of Education and the State Board of Education welcomes educator comments regarding revisions to the standards. We have received over a 1000 comments, and I am pleased that there is a robust conversation about student standards. To give online comment, please go to the Indiana Department of Education at [www.doe.in.gov](http://www.doe.in.gov) to provide your commentary on the draft set of English/Language Arts and Mathematics standards. Public comment will end March 12, 2014. After the close of public input, the comments and specific feedback will be reconciled and shared with the Standards Evaluation Teams who will use the input to continue the development of a fully articulated and concise draft of standards to be shared with the College and Career Ready Panel. These teams reflect voices of subject matter experts in English/Language Arts and Mathematics representing classroom educators from Kindergarten to Higher Education. It is expected that the Board will approve standards in April.

**\*May Testing Windows...**

The State Board of Education will consider expanding the testing windows for the May ISTEP+, IMAST, and Core Links. I will communicate in another DOE Dialogue this week after the SBOE meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

Keep in touch. Feel free to leave comments at [doecomm@doe.in.gov](mailto:doecomm@doe.in.gov).

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

NOTE: \* indicates data information requirements for ALL public schools, including charter schools.

**MEMORANDUM:** ACCUPLACER Diagnostics is the assessment selected to meet the requirements of [IC 20-32-9](#), which requires public and state-accredited nonpublic school students who meet specific criteria to take a college- and career-readiness exam and potentially receive remediation. Please see the [attached document](#) for three important updates regarding the implementation of ACCUPLACER Diagnostics. For further information contact for this program Amanda Culhan ([aculhan@doe.in.gov](mailto:aculhan@doe.in.gov)), Dr. Leslie Fatum ([lfatum@doe.in.gov](mailto:lfatum@doe.in.gov)), and Adam Mastrucci ([amastrucci@doe.in.gov](mailto:amastrucci@doe.in.gov)). ([see document](#)) (originally posted 02/24/14)

**MEMORANDUM:** College- and Career-Readiness Assessment Implementation

During the 2013 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly passed [HEA 1005](#), and the Governor signed PL 268-2013 into law. A component of this law ([IC 20-32-9](#)) requires public and state-accredited nonpublic school students who meet specific criteria to take a college- and career-readiness exam and potentially receive remediation. The assessment selected to meet the requirements of this law for the 2013-14 school year is ACCUPLACER Diagnostics. State Board of Education discussed IC 20-32-9 ([HEA 1005](#)) and the implementation guidance for spring 2014. As the statute specifically requires juniors to participate in a college- and career-readiness assessment (based on qualification criteria), Superintendent Ritz and her fellow Board members asked the IDOE to clarify the following for the field:

*Please note that sophomores are not required to participate in ACCUPLACER Diagnostics during the spring of 2014.*

Please also note that as this is a pilot year, we look forward to speaking with CTCs, guidance counselors, and others to gather feedback on the first round of implementation. Watch for more information in the coming months.

Due to weather-related issues, the ACCUPLACER Diagnostics Training sessions on February 5 at Hammond were cancelled. If you were scheduled to attend one of the sessions at Hammond, or if you have not yet accessed the recorded training and you would like to join a live webinar, please see below for details.

Additional ACCUPLACER Diagnostics Training Webinar

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Click on this link to register

<https://collegeboardtraining.webex.com/collegeboardtraining/onstage/g.php?p=40&t=m>

IDOE contacts for this program include Amanda Culhan ([aculhan@doe.in.gov](mailto:aculhan@doe.in.gov)), Dr. Leslie Fatum ([lfatum@doe.in.gov](mailto:lfatum@doe.in.gov)), and Adam Mastrucci ([amastucci@doe.in.gov](mailto:amastucci@doe.in.gov)).

[2013-14 Qualification Criteria for ACCUPLACER Diagnostics Participation](#)

(originally posted 02/10/14)

## Memorandum

**MEMORANDUM:** *Severe Weather Preparedness Week March 16-22.* Local, state and national organizations are encouraging Hoosiers to prepare now for thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding as part of [Severe Weather Preparedness Week](#). State agencies, including the Indiana Public Safety Commission, Indiana Department of Education, Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Broadcasters Association and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, in cooperation with the National Weather Service, the American Red Cross, local emergency management agencies and the amateur radio community, will be observing Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 16-22. (tornado preparedness) Part of Severe Weather Preparedness Week, on [Thursday, March 20](#), a test of the Emergency Alert System will sound both in the morning and evening on commercial radio, television networks, and all hazards radios. These drills provide an excellent opportunity for families, schools, and businesses to practice their weather safety action plan.

The Department of Education partnered with the American Institute of Architects Indiana (AIA) to assist educators in identifying tornado refuge areas in their schools. This document is titled "Tornado Refuge Areas in Existing Indiana K-12 Schools" and is available online here:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/safety/tornado-faq.pdf>

Flooding is also an issue Hoosiers may deal with in the spring months. Floods can be very expensive, and purchasing flood insurance is one of the most cost-effective steps a homeowner can take to protect their home. FEMA's FloodSmart website has created a tool to quickly estimate the cost of damages from various amounts of floodwater in a home. [FloodSmart.gov](#) also includes resources to help homeowners prepare their homes for a flood. To find out more about preparing for severe weather and floods, visit [GetPrepared.IN.gov](#).

**MEMORANDUM:** National School Lunch Program, USDA, Section 204, and Indiana Code, 20-26-9-18, requires that a School Wellness Policy be implemented, evaluated, and monitored. The Indiana Department of Education, School and Community Nutrition will be offering school wellness [policy trainings](#) in the months of April and May. These trainings will focus on updating schools on the new USDA Wellness Policy requirements.

Send up to two representatives of your School Wellness Committee to this training. This can include but is not limited to representatives from administrators, school foodservice, physical education teachers, parent teacher association representatives, registered dietitians, and other key community members involved with school wellness. Administrators are highly encouraged to attend.

All trainings are from 9:00am - 1:00pm, EXCEPT the training in Evansville, which is from 9:30am - 1:00pm. After registering, further information will follow closer to training date selected. Click [here](#) to register. Please be sure to bring a copy of your school's current wellness policy to this training.

### **MEMORANDUM: Notice of Publication of Indiana's Part B Application and Opportunity for Comment:**

To receive federal Part B Special Education funding from the U.S. Department of Education, the Indiana Department of Education is required to give the public an opportunity to comment on the plan included in the Part B Application. The Application and comment form are available on the [Office of Special Education](#) home page. Comments will be accepted through May 2, 2014. For additional information, please contact Becky Bowman at [bbowman@doe.in.gov](mailto:bbowman@doe.in.gov).

**MEMORANDUM:** Indiana Summit on Out of School Learning March 17-18, 2013 - JW Marriott, 10 South West Street, Indianapolis. This 2-day Summit, hosted by the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana

Afterschool Network, brings together more than 750 staff and leaders from youth programs, schools, universities, businesses and foundations to connect, learn, and share best practices on **afterschool and summer learning**. The year's theme, *I AM Indiana Afterschool* features more than 50 hands-on, engaging workshops, the latest in innovative curriculum and learning, exciting keynote speakers, networking events, exhibitors, and more! Registration: \$60 [www.indianaafterschool.org](http://www.indianaafterschool.org) For further information contact Debbie Zipes, President [dzipes@indianaafterschool.org](mailto:dzipes@indianaafterschool.org)

**MEMORANDUM:** Online Testing Preparation, ([see attached memo](#)) February 4, 2014 The Indiana Department of Education has implemented a multi-step approach to preparing for ISTEP+ Online testing this spring, including the following:

- **Statewide Readiness Test**
- **Performance Test Review** CTB has conducted numerous performance tests and upgraded their system infrastructure, and a third-party vendor is validating the following performance tests
- **Site-Specific Support**
- **IDOE Support**
- **Online Testing Site Status**

For further information contact Michelle Walker at [mwalker@doe.in.gov](mailto:mwalker@doe.in.gov) or 317- 232-9050 ([see attached memo](#))

**MEMORANDUM: Grant Opportunity** The Office of Early Learning and Intervention is offering a school improvement planning grant opportunity for Priority Schools that have received F grades for two (2) or three (3) consecutive years via the state accountability system, and Focus and Priority schools in F districts as indicated in the attached memorandum. This project is intended for schools to build leadership capacity and stronger school improvement plans that are aligned with USDOE's Turnaround Principles for Focus and Priority schools and Title I School wide and PL 221 requirements. ([see attachment](#))

**MEMORANDUM: IDOE STEM Schools:** STEM education, which is a non-traditional model of education, is an option schools may use in order to close the widening gap between the knowledge and skills of our students and the rigorous demands of college and careers. A group of educators and business leaders from across Indiana have developed a comprehensive plan for STEM education. They will develop a framework for a new STEM certification for schools that are STEM proficient. Their plan is to expand the tools and resources on the [IDOE-STEM page \(http://www.doe.in.gov/achievement/ccr/indiana-stem-education-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics\)](http://www.doe.in.gov/achievement/ccr/indiana-stem-education-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics) to ensure that schools have resources for implementing STEM education at the local level and becoming certified as STEM Proficient Schools. They will coordinate a STEM School Network that promotes collaboration of best practices in STEM education. The IDOE plans to open a pilot application period in the fall of 2014 with certifications being awarded in spring of 2015. For more information contact Jeremy Eltz, [jeltz@doe.in.gov](mailto:jeltz@doe.in.gov).

**MEMORANDUM: STEM Schools Summit ([Flyer attached](#)):** The Indiana STEM School Summit will take place on May 20, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Purdue University in the Discovery Hall of Learning. Event is sponsored by the Purdue University, College of Education (COE), the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), and the Center for Advancing the Teaching and Learning of STEM (CATALYST). The focus of this event will be to roll out the new Indiana STEM School Certification framework, which will be used with schools that apply for recognition as Indiana STEM Proficient Schools. Purdue COE STEM efforts will be highlighted, including the Integrated STEM Teacher Education Initiative and the STEM Road Map project. The keynote speaker for the event is David Burns, Director of STEM Networks for Battelle, whose work has included the start-up of the Ohio STEM Learning Network, the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, and STEMx, a national collaborative of states focused on STEM education. [Registration for the event](#) is at ([see registration](#)) For more information contact Dr. Carla Johnson, [carlajohnson@purdue.edu](mailto:carlajohnson@purdue.edu) or Jeremy Eltz, [jeltz@doe.in.gov](mailto:jeltz@doe.in.gov).

## Information From Other Agencies



The **Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience** - the Midwest's largest outdoor recreational event - is searching for volunteers. The 2014 event will take place at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis, 9/20-9/21. This free, family-friendly event offers more than 50 different outdoor activities and runs from 10am-6pm each day.

Volunteers will be assigned to help in five-hour shifts with one of the many on-site activities such as fishing, mountain biking, canoeing, archaeological dig and more. Come experience one of the greatest events of the year! Starting July 1<sup>st</sup> sign up to volunteer at <http://2013experiencevolunteers.eventbrite.com>. Contact volunteer coordinator Cheryl Hampton, (317) 233-1002, [champton@dnr.in.gov](mailto:champton@dnr.in.gov). Visit us online at [www.hoosieroutdoorexperience.IN.gov](http://www.hoosieroutdoorexperience.IN.gov) or [facebook.com/hoosieroutdoorexperience](https://www.facebook.com/hoosieroutdoorexperience).

## Legislative Updates

This is the last week of the legislative session; session is scheduled to end by Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned in the coming weeks for updates regarding education legislation that has been passed by the General Assembly. The [IDOE Facebook](#) and [Twitter pages](#) will continue to be updated throughout the legislative process.

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